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Sharing and Shaping Usable Science through the Inter-Agency Climate Change Forum

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Forum Facts

- Purpose is unofficial collaboration and networking regarding climate change impacts and adaptations
- Co-chaired by NASA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Meets in DC area 6-8 times/year for ½ day sessions
- Phone in participants from across US
- Public presence on FedCenter
- All presentations archived on FedCenter workgroup site
- Entering 5th year in 2012
- Most Federal departments and numerous agencies involved
- Forum organizers can be accessed by ccforum@fedcenter.gov

ccforum@fedcenter.gov

The Inter-Agency Forum

■ Background

In the autumn of 2007, a small group of persons from Defense, NASA and USGS met to share information about how their agencies were planning to adapt to changing climatic conditions. One driver was language in the 2008 Defense Bill requiring Defense to identify impacts of changing climate on facilities, lands and missions in the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review. All the participants expressed a desire to better understand what other agencies were doing. The Inter-Agency Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Forum emerged from this discussion. This forum has met regularly since January, 2008.

■ Format

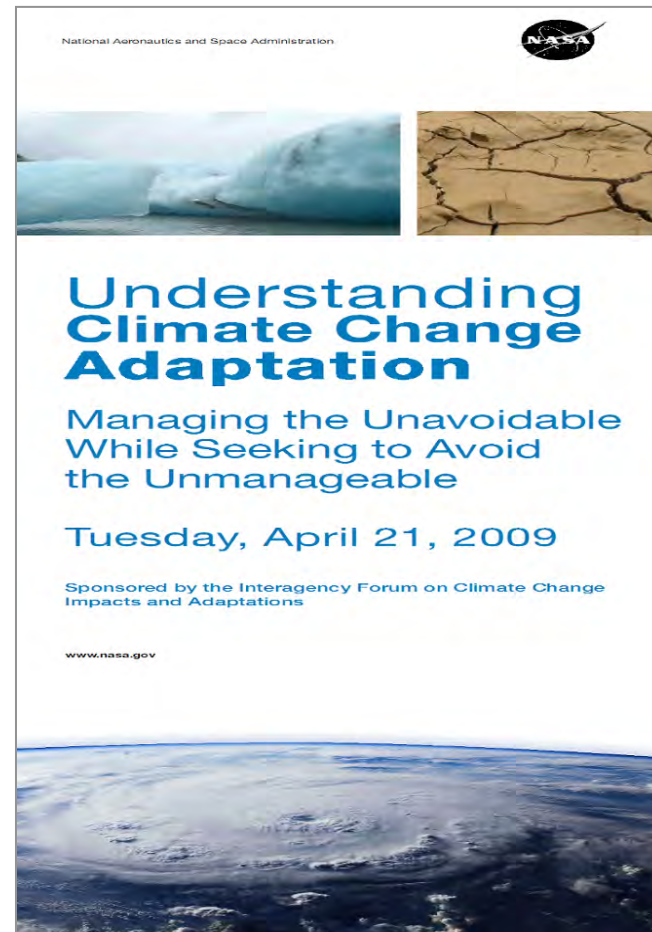
The forum quickly evolved into a half-day format, with each session involving 2-4 presentations with extensive engagement by the participants. Presentations were usually by agency staff, but also included some centers (CNA, PEW, Heinz, RAND) and firms that were helping to shape agency approaches.

■ Sponsorship

There is no budget or formal sponsorship supporting this forum. NASA and Corps of Engineers provide services and time to the co-chairs to facilitate the forum activities. FedCenter support is provided compliments of EPA.

Forum Focus

- We are focusing on the implications of the changing climate on agency missions and resources, and on the need to share approaches and “usable science”.
- The forum helps provide a creative exchange between climate scientists and agency decision makers impacted by changing climatic circumstances – and this exchange helps to shape the development of usage science.
- Both climate science and climate adaptation programs in multiple agencies have been impacted by forum discussions – and the networking facilitated by the forum.



Session History and Plans

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	January	January	February	January*
March	March	March	March	
April	April	April	May	
June	May	July	Aug	
August	August	October	October	
October	September	December#	December*	
December#	October			
	December#			

hosted by SERDP/ESTCP

* planned sessions

Session Agenda – 10-20-11

Topic	Presenter	Time
Welcome	Sam Higuchi	1:00 PM
New Climate Change Information	Sam Higuchi	1:10 PM
Understanding and Communicating Climate Risk	Dr. Jay Gulledge, Pew Center	1:30 PM
The Impact of Climate Change on the National Flood Insurance Program	Mark Crowell, Federal Emergency Management Agency, with David Divoky (AECOM) and Wilbert Thomas (Baker)	2:15 PM
Break		3:00 PM
Integrating Climate Adaptation into EPA's Programs, Policies, Rules and Operations	Dr. Joel Scheraga, Environmental Protection Agency, Senior Advisor for Climate Adaptation, EPA Office of Policy	3:20 PM
Discussion, Upcoming Sessions	William D. Goran, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	4:05 PM

Presenting & Attending Organizations

Type of Organization	Presentations (Jan 2008 – Oct 2011)	Attendees (email list)
Federal Agencies	66	202
State/Local Agencies	2	2
USGCRP/CEQ/OSTP	7	10
GAO	8	3
Congress/Staff	2	0
Academics	3	13
Centers/NGO	15	32
Firms	8	42

Attending Agencies

Agency	#	Agency	#
Defense	84	Postal Service	1
Interior	21	DOJ	3
EPA	28	Commerce	4
NOAA	10	GAO	3
NASA	13	CEQ/OSTP/USGCRP	10
USDA	11	GSA	3
DOT	9	State	2
DHS	6		
DOE	7		

Linkage to FedCenter



- FedCenter email for assistance (ccforum@fedcenter.gov).
- Public page for information sharing (upcoming forums, listing of all sessions/presentations)
- Workgroup site where all presentations are kept from all forums sessions
- Registered participants “view” presentations from FedCenter (must 1st request and be assigned a FedCenter login) while connected via telephone.

Climate Change Adaptation Task Force*

Guidance (Issued October 2010)



- **Make adaptation a standard part of Agency planning**
- **Ensure scientific information about the impacts of climate change is easily accessible**
- **Align Federal efforts to respond to climate impacts that cut across jurisdictions and missions**
- **Develop a U.S. strategy to support international adaptation that leverages resources across the Federal Government**
- **Build strong partnerships to support local, state, and tribal decision makers**

*Task Force co-chaired by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

What's the Benefit?

- **CEQ Guidelines:** Essentially, the forum has informally and indirectly addressed each of the task force guidelines – helping agencies develop plans, making scientific and organizational response information more accessible, helping to align approaches across federal agencies/jurisdictions, helping to shape strategies, nurturing partnerships.
- **Usable Science?*** Does the forum help craft a shared vision of what knowledge is usable in relation to federal agencies decision processes? Through the discussions and networking – have we helped shape thinking about what agencies need from the science community?
- **Participation** - continues to increase, both on-site and via remote access. Given the pressure on participants time, this increase is a clear indicator that the forum serves a valuable role, with more persons connecting as they learn about the forum.

**Creating usable science: Opportunities and constraints for climate knowledge use and their implications for science policy, Lisa Dilling a,*, Maria Carmen Lemos, Global Environmental Change 21, 2011 pages 680-689.*

Questions?



*Climate Science:
What changes can be
expected?*

*Where and when will these
changes occur?*

*Usable Science:
How will changing climate
impact our missions?*

*What can we do to adapt to
these changes?*

How can we work together?